



4574 E. Broadway Blvd.  
Tucson 85711

Monday, April 15, 2013

Dear Governor Brewer,

The Southern Arizona Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure lends its support to your efforts to expand Arizona's Medicaid program, otherwise known as AHCCCS.

We were founded in 1999 to provide funding to make breast cancer education and treatment affordable for the people of Southern Arizona.

The community health care centers we support serve as a 'last resort' for Southern Arizonans who fall through the gaps in this state's healthcare system because they are not covered by AHCCCS. This may be because they are childless adults, they earn \$1 over the income levels set out by AHCCCS rules, they are under-insured, or unable to afford to buy health insurance.

Every week at our office in Tucson we deal with telephone calls from people who have fallen through the cracks in the healthcare system. These are women who, through no fault of their own (low income, or no dependents, or health insurance that doesn't stretch far enough), are denied coverage for breast cancer treatment. Some of them don't have the resources to finish up treatment that has already begun. This is dire in a state where, at the last count, only 40% of women eligible for a mammogram were getting one.\*

Due to the economic pressures felt by all non-profits, our donations have declined. We simply have less money to grant to community health care centers to support those affected by breast cancer with nowhere else to turn.

At the same time our donations have decreased, applications for grants from local health clinics, hospitals and other health providers have increased, totaling \$872,500 this year. We will struggle to meet those requests.

Governor Brewer, we pride ourselves on our work but we at Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southern Arizona Affiliate are at crisis point. We simply do not have the funds to meet our local health demands.

We believe that your proposal to restore medical coverage to thousands of working poor adults in Arizona would ease that crisis: if more people were covered by AHCCCS, we would have less 'gaps' to fill in, and our funds would stretch further.

We not only endorse your proposal, we will be asking our members to support it, and letting them know that they should ask members of the Legislature to do the same.

Yours,

Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southern Arizona

- *Figures from CDC/Komen SAZ Community Profile 2011.*